Report of Central Team on situation in Orissa and Karnataka

550. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to invoke Article 355 of the Constitution to warn Orissa and Karnataka Governments to rein in violence following attacks on churches and prayer halls in the States;

(b) if so, whether Government has sent Central teams to Orissa and Karnataka to assess the damage being done to churches and prayer halls;

(c) if so, the details of reports submitted by the Central teams; and

(d) the stringent steps Government proposes to take to ensure that State Governments are properly handling the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The Ministry of Home Affairs had remained in continuous and close touch with the State Government of Orissa ever since incidents of communal violence were reported in the State. In addition, 7 advisories/communications were sent to the Government of Orissa between 25.8.2008 and 10.10.2008 at various levels, including the Home Secretary and the Union Home Minister. In these advisories/ communications, State Government of Orissa was asked/ directed to take stringent action against the persons indulging in communal violence, including identifying and apprehending the elements inciting and stoking communal violence/ hatred; ensure arrangements to provide security to members of the minority community and their places of worship, etc.; undertake comprehensive measures for relief and rehabilitation of the victims and other affected persons, including measures for reconstruction repair of residential and other structures that were burnt/damaged during the violence; and, take effective steps to create an environment in which people who had to leave their homes could return at the earliest.

Disappearing of finger prints

551. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly one lakh finger prints of hard core criminals digitally scored in the State Crime Records Bureau, Chennai have vanished;

(b) whether the investigating machinery are handicapped to track the criminals for want of such finger prints;

(c) how the deficiency could be made by other means; and

(d) the measures/precautions undertaken to avoid this kind of disappearance in other States?